

What is claimed is:-

1. A disposable cover for a lifting sling comprising two sheets (or sheet portions) of non-woven impermeable material secured together along first edges to
5 define therebetween a pocket for receiving a lifting sling.

2. A disposable cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein a tear line is provided at or adjacent to at least one of said first edges to facilitate removal of the cover from the sling.

3. A disposable cover as claimed in claim 2, wherein tear lines are provided at or adjacent to all of said first edges so that the two sheets (or sheet portions) of material can be separated from one another.

4. A disposable cover as claimed in claim 2, wherein one or more tabs is/are secured to said at least one first edge, the tab or tabs being manually grippable to enable the cover to be torn along the tear line or lines.

5. A disposable cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover is shaped to receive a one piece body support sling which will support the back and thighs of a patient.

6. A disposable cover as claimed in claim 5, wherein the cover includes a main portion for receiving a main portion of a sling which portion in use supports the back of a patient and lower end dependent leg portions for receiving lower end dependent leg portions of a sling which portions in use respectively extend beneath and upwardly between the thighs of a patient.

7. A disposable cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein releasable fastening means are provided along at least one second edge of the cover for fastening the cover to a sling.

5 8. A method of preventing cross-infection between patients lifted in body support slings suspended from a lifting hoist, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a disposable cover on the sling.
- b. lifting the patient in the sling, and
- c. disposing of the cover prior to lifting another patient with the sling.

10 9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein step (b) comprises toileting the patient and wherein the cover is disposed of after each toileting procedure.

15 10. A method as claimed in claim 8, using a disposable sling cover for a lifting sling comprising two sheets (or sheet portions) of non-woven impermeable material secured together along first edges to define therebetween a pocket for receiving a lifting sling.